



For Immediate Release

JANUARY 15, 2003

For more information, contact 617-541-2670

Officers

Michael A. Vance,
President

Robert Kinney,
Vice President

Mike Foley,
Treasurer

Gloria Coney,
Clerk

Members

Joelee Baker Bey

Rev. Gerald Bell

Ralph Cooper

Ella Everett

Judy Flashner

Michael F. Glavin

Charlotte Golar Richie

Betty Greene

George Greenidge

Robert Harrington

Joanne Hilferty

Mark Maloney

Elizabeth Miranda

Valerie Pruitt

Frederick Umeh

Juanita B. Wade

John A. Wagner

Thomas Yee

Executive Director

Christine Araujo

BOSTON CONNECTS ELECTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Boston Connects, Inc. (BCI), the community-based organization working to create economic self-sufficiency for individuals, families and communities in Boston's Empowerment Zone, has elected officers for its 2003 Board of Directors.

Re-elected to third terms, the Officers of the BCI Board continue to serve the community and develop initiatives for the Zone. The Board President is Mr. Michael Vance. Brother Robert Kinney continues as Vice-President of the Board. Ms. Gloria Coney is re-elected as Clerk. Mr. Michael Foley is Treasurer.

A founding member of the BCI Board, Mr. Michael Vance is Vice President of Field Operations at Action for Boston Community Development Inc. (ABCD). He monitors and supervises neighborhood service centers that provide social services to economically disadvantaged residents of Boston and also oversees agency legislative policy relations. Mr. Vance is a Trustee of the Urban College of Boston and serves on the Boards of the Mattapan Center for Life and Geneva Avenue Elderly Housing, Inc.

Brother Robert Kinney, committed to promoting social change through the creation of family entrepreneurial and self-help programs, is the program Director of F.I.R.S.T. Askia Academy. He is also co-founder and president of T.E.A.A.M. and is acting Chairperson for the Massachusetts Black Alcoholism and Addiction Council. Brother Kinney is active in the NAACP, Concerned Black Men of Boston, and Roxbury United for Families and Children.



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

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A 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit Community Organization in Partnership with the City of Boston

Ms. Gloria Coney brings a wealth of social service expertise to the governing board. She is the Program Coordinator for the Malden Everett Family Network and is an independent consultant to several local groups regarding parenting issues. On a national level, Ms. Coney is a trainer and parent educator for the RIGHT Question Project.

Prior to joining BCI, Mr. Mike Foley served on the Board of the Enhanced Enterprise Community (EEC) and the Community Advisory Board to the EEC. Mr. Foley has operated a small real estate business, Jack Conway Realtors, for the past fifteen years. Mr. Foley is actively involved with the South Boston Chamber of Commerce, South Boston Main Streets and the Labouré Community Center.

The Board of Directors consists of 24 members, 12 appointed by the Mayor and 12 elected by the community. Mr. Vance and Mr. Foley are appointed members. Brother Kinney and Ms. Coney are community-elected members.

The Board also has three new community members: Robert Harrington (South Boston), Elizabeth Miranda (Upper Dudley), and Frederick Umeh (Lower Roxbury). The Empowerment Zone's governance structure is designed to provide a true community-driven decision making process that allows for accountability and innovation.

The vision of Boston Connects, Inc. is to create economic self-sufficiency for individuals, families and communities in the Empowerment Zone, some of the most under-developed and economically impoverished sections of the city. Its mission, in partnership with the City of Boston, is to develop innovative community empowerment initiatives tailored to the diverse needs of Empowerment Zone residents. Visit us at www.BostonEZ.org.

